

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A slip element comprising:
a body member; and
~~at least two inserts provided in corresponding openings formed in the body member, wherein one of the inserts is fabricated from a material that is stronger than the material from which another of the inserts is fabricated.~~
at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a ceramic material; and
at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a metallic/ceramic composite material.
2. (original) The slip element of claim 1 wherein each insert is in the form of a solid cylinder or rod.
3. (original) The slip element of claim 1 wherein an end portion of each insert projects outwardly from an outer surface of the body member.
4. (original) The slip element of claim 1 wherein each insert extends at an angle to the transverse axis of the body member.
5. (original) The slip element of claim 1 wherein the material forming each insert is strong enough to enable each insert to grip the wall of a casing.
6. (original) The slip element of claim 5 wherein each insert is adapted to be drilled out when the slip element is to be removed from the casing.

7. (currently amended) The slip element of claim 1 wherein ~~the material forming one of the inserts comprises a metallic ceramic composite and the material forming another of the inserts comprises a ceramic~~ the metallic/ceramic composite material is stronger than the ceramic material.
8. (currently amended) The slip element of claim 1 wherein the insert formed of the ~~metallic ceramic~~ metallic/ceramic composite material is not as susceptible to chipping as the insert formed of the ceramic material; and wherein the insert formed of the ceramic material can be milled easier than the insert formed of the metallic/ceramic composite material.
9. (original) The slip element of claim 7 wherein the material forming the body member comprises a composite matrix.
10. (original) The slip element of claim 9 wherein the composite matrix comprises epoxy resin polymers and a glass fiber reinforcement.
11. (currently amended) The slip element of claim 1 wherein the inserts are ~~fabricated from a material that is stronger than that of the body member.~~
12. (original) The slip element of claim 1 wherein the slip element is adapted to be attached to a mandrel, and the body member has a curved inner surface to conform to the curvature of the mandrel.
13. (original) The slip element of claim 12 wherein the slip element has a lower tapered end portion adapted to engage a tapered portion of a wedge mounted on the mandrel.

14. (original) The slip element of claim 12 wherein the slip element has at least one groove formed in its outer surface for receiving a retaining member to retain the slip element on the mandrel.

15. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

providing a body member; and

~~providing at least two inserts in corresponding openings in the body member, wherein the material forming one of the inserts is stronger than the material forming another of the inserts.~~

fabricating at least one insert from a ceramic material;

inserting the insert in a corresponding opening in the body member;

fabricating at least one additional insert from a metallic/ceramic composite material; and

inserting the additional insert in a corresponding opening in the body member.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of moving the body member towards the inner wall of a casing so that the inserts grip the wall.

17. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of drilling the body member and the inserts out to enable them to be removed from the casing.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~further comprising the step of forming one of the inserts from a metallic ceramic composite and forming another of the inserts from a ceramic~~ wherein the metallic/ceramic composite material is stronger than the ceramic material.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the insert formed of the ~~metallic ceramic~~ metallic/ceramic composite material is not as susceptible to chipping as the insert formed of the ceramic material; and wherein the insert formed of the ceramic material can be milled easier than the insert formed of the metallic/ceramic composite material.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of fabricating the body member with a composite matrix.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~further comprising the step of fabricating the inserts from a material that is~~ wherein the inserts are stronger than that of the body member.

22. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:
mounting the body member to a mandrel; and
curving the inner surface of the body member to conform to the curvature of a mandrel.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of tapering an end portion of the body member so that it can engage a tapered portion of a wedge mounted on the mandrel.

24. (original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of forming at least one groove in the outer surface of the body member for receiving a retaining member to retain the body member on the mandrel.

25. (new) A slip element comprising:
a body member; and
at least two inserts provided in corresponding openings in the body member,
one of the inserts being less susceptible to chipping than the other insert; and
the other insert being more millable than the one insert.

26. (new) The element of claim 25 wherein the one insert is fabricated from a metallic/ceramic composite material and wherein the other insert is fabricated from a ceramic material.

27. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein each insert is in the form of a solid cylinder or rod.

28. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein an end portion of each insert projects outwardly from an outer surface of the body member.

29. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein each insert extends at an angle to the transverse axis of the body member.

30. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein the material forming each insert is strong enough to enable each insert to grip the wall of a casing.

31. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein each insert is adapted to be drilled out when the slip element is to be removed from the casing.

32. (new) The slip element of claim 25 wherein material forming the one insert is stronger than the material forming the other insert.